

To: R9_ER List[R9_ER_List@epa.gov]
From: Meer, Daniel
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Subject: Refugio Oil Spill Response Update

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EPA Region 9 REOC

1715 hrs, PDT

OVERVIEW

The ICP moved locations over the weekend, to a building at the Santa Barbara Municipal Airport. The new building space is 30,000 square feet with multiple break out and meeting rooms. The response has approximately 1100 people working on it, between the field operations and the ICP. The movement of the ICP out of the Santa Barbara County Emergency Management space means that the UC will have to redouble efforts to stay integrated with the County, because maintaining that relationship is critical to the success of the response. The Unified Command made a decision to go to a 48 operational period during the ICP move and they are thinking of maintaining that operational period, to facilitate IAP development.

Another critical area is keeping open communication with Native American POCs and doing proper Tribal consultation. The spill area has many ancestral Tribal and cultural resources that have to be protected to the extent possible. Work plans require Tribal and archeological review and consultation.

The Unified Command held a public workshop on Saturday from 1200 to 1500, where booths were set up and members of the public and the media could interact more informally with members of the UC. Preliminary feedback is that the event went very well, even though there is still a lot of anger and questions in the community. The ability to hold a stakeholder meeting and a public workshop in the same week was impressive and people acknowledged the skill of our community involvement coordinator (Sarah Cafasso) in facilitating both of those meetings. More than 180 community members attended the public workshop on 5/30.

Cleanup endpoints for the shoreline cleanup efforts are under development in the Environmental Unit.

The UC has also made the decision to establish a technical specialist position to report directly to them on data management. They are trying to get a handle on all data management and analytical work and have asked EPA to lead the data management organization. This we have agreed to do (shades of the Columbia Shuttle recovery effort). ERT is sending someone in on 6/2 to help organize the data management effort. Donn Zuroski and Fred Stroud are working with NOAA and California DFW on standardizing the sampling plans so that everyone is using the same methods and we get to compare apples to apples.

Tar balls are being reported in Ventura County and Los Angeles County, as far south as Manhattan Beach, LAC. Deposition appears to be tidally influenced. The Responsible Party has

deployed beach cleanup crews to both counties to the south. The tar balls are being analyzed to see if they are a match to the pipeline oil release; until there is confirmation sampling done, Plains All American is operating under the assumption that at least some of the tar balls on VC and LAC beaches are pipeline oil. The Navy is also reporting tar balls on their property near Laguna Point in Ventura County.

OTHER AGENCY ACTIONS

Plains All American has taken reporters to various cleanup operations and also offered overflights. Media were taken out on a boat to view a natural seep (of course). Reporters also saw some of the inland excavation work.

California DFW and NOAA continue to perform GC/MS fingerprint analysis of samples. Some results may be released at the press conference on 6/1.

EPA ACTIONS

EPA is focused on completing the excavation plan for the area south of the UP rail line. The culvert underneath the rail line was cleaned on 5/30. OSC Tom Dunkelman is scheduled to rotate in on 6/3 as deputy IC and OSC Jason Musante is scheduled to rotate in on 6/2 or 6/3 as branch director.

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